

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 BIB-01

ACDA-05 CU-02 SAJ-01 EA-07 /075 W

----- 019011

R 051515Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2193

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BERLIN 5385

E.O.11652: GDS

TAG: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW, UR

SUBJECT: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY

IN THE GDR

REF: BERLIN 5431

1. SUMMARY: THE GDR OBSERVED THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY(NVA) MARCH 1 WITH MILITARY DISPLAYS IN EAST BERLIN AND OFFICIAL CEREMONIES ATTENDED BY A HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY MARSHAL VASILII CHUIKOV. IN MARKING THE OCCASION, BOTH SED FIRST SECRETARY ERICH HONECKER AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE HEINZ HOFFMAN underscored the NVA's alligiance to the SED and its firm CONFIDENTIAL

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ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE HIGHLY PUBLICIZED NVA ANNIVERSARY REPRSENTS A HIGHLIGHT IN THE INCREASED EMPHASIS ON MILITARYSECURITY THROUGHOUT GDR SOCIETY IN RECENT MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GDR MARKEDTHE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS NATIONAL PEOPLES ARMY(NVA) AMRCH 1 WITH POMP AND CEREMONY IN EAST BERLIN, ANDSTATEMENTS BY SEDFIRST SECRETARY ERICH HONECKER AND MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE GENERAL HEINZ HOFFMANN CALLED FOR ICRASED MILITARY PREPAREDNESS IN THE GDR. ON UNTER DEN LINDEN, BETWEENTHE MONUMENT TO THE VICTIMS OF FASCISM AND MILITARISM AND THE STATUE OF PRUSSIAN GENERAL ERHARD SCHARNHOSRT (THE PREFERRED SITE AOR GDR MILITARY DISPLAYS IN EAST BERLIN, AN NVA HONOR GUARD STAGES A PARADE AT MIDDAY ON MARCH 1 AND A MILITARY TATTOO IN THE EVENING. ON THE SAME DAY, DERMIN HOFFMANN GAVE A RRECEPTION ATTENDE BY THOSE MEMERS OF THE POLITBURO NOT IN MOSCOW FORTHE 25TH CPSU CONGRESS AND BY A SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION HEADED BY MARSHAL VASILII CHUKOV, WHO ARRIVED IN EAST BERLINFEBRUARY 27 TO PARTICIPATE N THE ANIIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. IN HIS REAMARKS AT THE MARCH 1 CEREMONY, CHUKOV UNDERSCORED THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND TH GDR ON THE BASIS OF THE OCOTOBER1975 TREATY AND MENTIONED THE UNCHANGING NATURE OF IMPERIALISM AND THE THREAT FROM PEKING.

3. IN THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MESSAGE WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE 1 OF NEUES DEUTSCHLAND, SED FIRST SECRETARY HONECKER STRESSED THE LEADING ROLE OF THE PARTY IN THE NVA AND THE IMPORT- ANCE OF A FIRST MILITARY ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. THE MESSAGE NOTED THAT SOCIALISM WAS "ON THE OFFENSIVE" IN THEWORLD AND THAT AGRESSIVE CIRCLES IN THE WEST HAD INCREASED THEIR ANTI-DETENTE ACTIVITIS. SINCE " SUDDEN TURNS" IN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION COULD ARISE, THERESPONSIBLITY OF THEGDR MILITARY INCREASED AS DID ITS COMMITMENT TO PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM,SOCIALIST PATRIOTISM AND THESOVIET UNION. THE HONECKER MESSAGE CLOSED BY CALLING FOR A HEIGHTENED INFLUENCE OF THE PARTY AND PARTY ORGANIZATIONS ON THE NVA,WHICH ALREADY STANDS DIRECTLYUNDER HONECKER'S COMMAND IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THE GDR NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL.

4. THE PRINCIPAL ADDRESS IN HONOR OF THE NVA WAS DELIVERED BY DEFMINN HOFFMANN DURING A FEBRUARY 27 CEREMONY IN THE CAVERNOUS FRIEDRICHSTADT-PALAST ATTENDED BY THOSE POLITBURO MEMBERS STILL IN BERLIN AND THE CHUKIOV DELEGATON. HOFFMANN MADE A POINT OF BEGINNING HIS SPEECH WITH A REFERENCE TO VENUE: THE GROUP HAD ASSEMBLED TO OBSERVE THIS ANNIVERSARY OF THE GDR MILITARY " INTHE CENTER OF BERLIN, THECAPITAL OF THEGDR". HE OF COURSE DID NOTALLUDE DIRCTLY TO THE ALLIED POSTION ON THE DEMILITARIZED STATUS OF BERLIN,BUT HIS POINT WAS CLEARLY MADE. HOFFMANN WENT ON TOE CHARACTERIZE THENVA

AS AN ARMY DEEPLYROOTED IN THE WORKING CLASS, DIRCTLY UNDER THECOMMAND OF THE SED, AND DETERMINED BY ITS CLOSE MILITARY TIES WITH THE SOVIET UNION. HE DECLARED THATTHE NVA CONSTITUTED A UNITY OF THE PEOPLE AND THE MILITARY IN THE GDR," RESPECTED BY FRIENDS AND HATEDBY THE ENEMY",AND HEPRESENTD STATISTICS TO SHOW THAT ITS OFFICER CORPS CAME LARGELY FROM THEWORKING CLASS. FOR HOFFMANN,THE NVA WAS CREATION OF THE SED ALONE, WHICH TAUGHT THE PEOPLE OF THE GDR "TO LOVE OUR FIRENDS AND HATE THE ENEMY". HOWEVER, THE GDR MILITARY HAD ALSO LEARNED MUCH FROM THE SOVIET ARMY WHICH HOFFMANN DESCRIBED AS HAVING " PATIENTLY" LENT KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE TO ITS FLEDGLING EAST GERMAN COUNTERPART. THENVA HAD FURTHER LEARNED FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY GERMAN WORKINGCLASS MOVEMENT,FROM LENIN, AND FROM TESTS OFSTRENGTH SUCH AS AUGUST 1961, (COMMENT: THE MONTH THE BERLIN WALL WAS CONSTRUCTED).

5. NOTING THAT THE DRAFT SED PARTY PROGRAM, WHICH WILL BE ADOPTED ATTHE NINTH PARTY CONGRESS IN MAY, HAD CALLED FOR A STRENGTHENEDNATIONAL DEFENSE, HOFFMANN URGED INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS IN THE NVA AND STATED THAT MILITARY PREPAREDNESS HADNO LIMITS IN THE GDR. INSOFAR AS THESEDEIGHT PARTY CONRESS IN 9171 HAD RESULTED IN IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS IN THE NVA AS IN GDR SOCIETY AT LARGE, HOFFMANN ARGUED, THENVA HAD BEEN ABLE TO INCREASE ITS READINESS AND BETTERMASTER THEWEAPONRY OF MODERNWARFARE. NOT ONLY SHOULD THIS READINESS BE CONFIDENTIAL

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INCREASEDWITIN THENVA, BUTALL GDRCITIZENS SHOULD BE PRPEARD TO DEFEND SOCIALISM. HOFFMANN PROMISED THAT THE SEDNINTH PARTY CONGRESS WOULD POINT THE WAY TO THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THENVA.

6. DISCUSSIING THE NVA'S ROLE IN THE WARSAW PACT, HOFFMANN CONJURED UP ENOUGH IMAGES FROM RECENT PAST TOGIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE REAL FUNCTION OF TEH NVA, WS IN FACT TO PROTECT EASTERN EUROPE FROM THE GERMANS, AND THEFRG. BECAUSE OF THENVA, HOFFMANN ARGUED"" THE SOVIET SOLDIER, THE POLSIH FARMER, AND THE CZECH WORKER(SIC)" KNEW FORTHE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES THATA GERMAN STATE(THE GDR) ANDARMY(THE NVA) EXISIED THATDID NOT THREATEN THEIR EXISTENCE BUT RATHER FORMED A SECURE PROTECTIVE BARRIER AGAINST THE NEW"CRUSADERS OF PRUSSIAN-GERMAN MILITARISM" WHEREAS THE NVA WAS A DEFENSIVE ARMY AND THREATEEND NO ONE, HE SAID, REACTIONARY CIRCLES IN NATO AND THE FRG POSED A REAL THREAT. HOFFMAN REFERRED TO THOSE IN THE WEST WHO SHOUGHT TO INCORPORATE THE GDR AND CONNECT ITS TERRITORY INTO A "SPRINGBOARD FOR THE DOMINANCE OFFRG MONOPOLIES OVER EUROPE" AND SAW THIS AS THEREASON WHY THEWEST DEFAMED THE NVA AND ITS

ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET ARMY. HOWEVER, GDR SOLDIERS ARMED WITH SOVIET WEAPONS AND ACTING IN THE TRADITION OF LIEBKNECHT AND THAELMANN, HAD ERECTED INSUPERABLE BARRIERS AGAINST ITS "DRANG NACH OSTEN". HERE HOFFMANN WAXED ELOQUENT WITHIN THE EXCEEDING NARROW CONFINES OF PARTE DEUTSHC" A GOOD AND STABLE WALL WAS BUILT BEHIND WHICH ONE CAN LEAD A HAPPY AND SECURE LIFE WITH GATES FIRMLY CLOSED TO ALL INTRUDERS AND OPEN WIDE ONLY TO THOSE WHO COME TO US WITH A PEACEFUL HEART."

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ACDA-05 CU-02 SAJ-01 EA-07 /075 W

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R 051515Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2194

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BERLIN 5385

E.O.11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY IN THE GDR

7. HOFFMANN WENT ONTO STATE THAT ALTHOUGH DETENTE WAS THE PRINCIPAL TENDENCY OF THE ERA, THE THREAT FROM THE WEST PERSISTED. CITING STATEMENTS BY US DEFMINT RUMSFELD, AND COMMENTS FROM 1955 BY FORMER FRG CHANCELLOR ADENAUER, HOFFMANN SAID THE ENEMY STOOD READY TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CRITICAL OF FRG DEFMINT GEORG LEBER AND THE RECENT ISSUED "WHITE BOOK" OF FRG MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, AND PORTRAYED THE FRG BUNDESWEHR

AS SEEKING A RAPID INCREASE IN ITS MILITARY STRENGTH SO AS
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TO TURN THE MILITARY BALANCE OF POWER IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO ITS FAVOR. HAVING THUS BUILT UP THE THREAT FROM THE WEST, HOFFMAN CALLED FOR INCREASED MILITARY PREPAREDNESS AGAINST AN IMPERIALIST ENEMY THAT STILL SOUGHT TO DESTROY SOCIALISM. HE FURTHER CALLED FOR SOLIDARITY IN SUPPORT OF SOCIALISM AROUND THE WORLD AND AGAINST ALL THREATS TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF YOUNG NATIONS STATES SUCH AS CHILE, ANGOLA AND VIETNAM.

8. COMMENT: THE PRESENCE OF A HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION AT THE NVA CEREMONIES IN EAST BERLIN IS A SIGN OF THE IMPORTANCE THE SOVIET UNION ATTACHES TO THE 200,000 MAN (INCLUDING BORDER TROOPS) EAST GERMAN ARMY. THEAT THE DELEGATION SHOULD BE HEADED BY MARSHAL CHUIKOV, A LEADER OF SOVIET FORCES AT STALINGRAD AND IN THE BATTLE FOR BERLIN, IS BUT ONE MORE EXAMPLE OF THE SYMBOLIC ROLE ASSIGNED TO THE 400,000 MAN SOVIET ARMY IN THE GDR AS "LIBERATORS" WHO MADE SOCIALISM IN EAST GERMANY POSSIBLE.

9. GDR MEDIA HAVE BEEN AWASH WITH MILITARY PROGAGANDA DURING THE CURRENT NVA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, WHICH CAN BE SEEN AS THE HIGH POINT OF AN INCREASING EMPHASIS OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY EVIDENT IN THE GDR SINCE SPRING, 1975. IN ADDITION TO A FLURRY OF MAGAZINE COVERS AND PRESS ARTICLE DEVOTED TO THE NVA, GDR RADIO AND TELEVISION HAVE RECENTLY BEEN USED INCREASINGLY AS VEHICLES FOR PROMOTING THE MILITARY. IT IS NOT UNCOMMON TO HEAR CHILDREN'S GROUPS INTONING NVA SONGS ON GDR RADIO, AND THE MARCH 1 TEN MINUTE INSTALLMENT OF THE MOST WIDELY VIEWED GDR CHILDREN'S TELEVISION PROGRAM WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO PRASING THE MILITARY. THESE PROGAGANDA EFFORTS CONSISTENTLY PORTRAY THE NVA AS AN ARMY OF THE PEOPLE THAT EXISTS TO PROTECT A SECURE LIFE IN THE GDR AND DESTROY THE ENEMY, IF NECESSARY. THEY FURTHER STRESS THE DUTY OF ALL CITIZENS IN PARAMILITARY DEFENSE.

10. THE CURRENT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IS THE CULMINATION OF A TREND THAT CAN BE DATED BACK TO APRIL, 1975, WHEN THE GDR MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE ORGAN "MILITAERWESEN" ANNOUNCED THAT PUBLICITY FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NVA WOULD BE INCREASED. WITH THE LAVISH CELEBRATION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION FROM FASCISM IN MAY AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOLLOWING THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE IN AUGUST, THE EMPHASIS ON THE MILITARY AND

SECURITY IN THE GDR INCREASED STEADILY. HONECKER'S STRIDENT SEPTEMBER 11 SPEECH BEFORE GDR AIR DEFENSE UNITS PUT THE OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ON THIS NEW MILITARY EMPHASIS.

1. THE CURRENT SECURITY CAMPAIGN IN THE GDR EXTENDS TO ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY AND IS DOMINATED BY A STEPPED UP RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN FOR THE NVA, EMPHASIS ON THE PAR-MILITARY DUTIES OF THE AVERAGE CITIZEN, AND AN ATTEMPT TO INculcate A GREATER RESPECT FOR THE MILITARY AMONG GDR YOUTH. THE MAY, 1975 ISSUE OF GDR EDUCATIONAL MAGAZINE, "PAEDOGOGIK", FOR EXAMPLE, CALLED UPON GDR SCHOOLS TO DO MORE TO PREPARE YOUTH FOR THE MILITARY, WHILE THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF FDJ ORGAN "JUNGE WELT" URGED THAT YOUNG GIRLS BE MORE ACTIVELY INTEGRATED INTO PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH SO AS TO ASSURE THAT THEY ACQUIRED A "FUNDAMENTALLY AFFIRMATIVE ATTITUDE" TOWARD THE MILITARY. THE BREADTH OF PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES APPEARS TO BE INCREASING, AS INDICATED BY REPORTS FROM HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY IN EAST BERLIN TO THE EFFECT THAT PROFESSORS ARE BEING CALLED UPON TO PARTICIPATE IN PARAMILITARY PROGRAMS MORE ACTIVELY THAN IN THE PAST, LEADING TO A MORE FREQUENT CANCELLATION OF LECTURES AND SEMINARS. A "TACTICAL MILITARY EXERCISE" OF THE GDR'S PRINCIPAL PARAMILITARY GROUPS, THE "COMBAT GROUPS OF THE WORKING CLASS", HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1976 AND WILL INCLUDE LARGE NUMBERS OF THE 400,000 MEMBERS OF THESE GROUPS ORGANIZED AROUND PLANTS AND FACTORIES THROUGHOUT THE GDR. IN A JANUARY 1976 INTERVIEW WITH "PIONEERLEITER", A MAGAZINE FOR YOUTH GROUP LEADERS, GDR MAJOR GENERAL HORST BRUENNER ANNOUNCED THAT A SERIES OF MILITARY MAN-EUVERS GAMES FOR CHILDREN HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR WINTER 1976 TO BRING MEMBERS OF THE GDR CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATION "JUNGE PIONIERE" INTO CONTACT WITH THE MILITARY. IN BRUENNER'S WORDS, THE PURPOSE OF THE EXERCISE WAS TO INSTILL IN EAST GERMAN CHILDREN "LOVE AND RESPECT FOR SOCIALIST SOLDIERS AND LOATHING FOR OUR ENEMIES".

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12. OTHER RECENT EXAMPLES OF THIS TREND IN THE GDR INCLUDE AN INCREASINGLY POSITIVE OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE PRUSSIAN MILITARY TRADITION, THE INTRODUCTION IN OCTOBER OF A NEW AWARD FOR GDR MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES, AND THE ADOPTION OF A NEW LAW IN NOVEMBER TO ASSURE BETTER PROVISIONING FOR THE NVA. ON NOVEMBER 12, 1975, THE GDR PLAYED UP THE 220TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF PRUSSIAN GENERAL GERHARD SCHARNHORST WITH A PARADE AND WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT HIS STATUE ON UNTER DEN LINDEN. ON THIS OCCASION, SCHARNHORST WAS HONORED FOR HAVING INTRODUCED THE CONCEPT OF A PEOPLE'S ARMY TO GERMANY AND FOR HAVING ALLIED WITH THE RUSSIANS IN A WAR OF LIBERATION. IN OCTOBER, 1975 HONECKER ANNOUNCED

THE INTRODUCTION OF A NEW AWARD, "HERO OF THE GDR", INTENDED FOR MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES OF THE GDR FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO NATIONAL DEFENSE. THE FIRST WINER, ANNOUNCED ON NOVEMBER 18 ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY, WAS DEFMIN HOFFMANN, FOLLOWED BY MINISTER OF STATE SECURITY ERICH MIELKE AND MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR FRIEDRICH DICKE, WHO RECEIVED THE AWARD ON DECEMBER 1. FINALLY, A NEW LAW ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN NOVEMBER 1975, DECLARED THAT THE NVA WOULD IN THE FUTURE TAKE PRECEDENCE IN RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM THE GDR ECONOMY AND INSTITUTED A SYSTEM OF MONETARY PENALTIES TO BE LEVIED ON FACTORIES THAT WERE LAX IN MEETING THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THE NVA.

13. THE GDR'S CURRENT SECURITY CAMPAIGN, LIKE ITS RECENT TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, IS PROBABLY INTENDED BY THE PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AS A STRONG ANTIDOTE TO THE POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING EFFECTS OF INCREASED CONTACTS WITH THE WEST. IT FURTHER SERVES TO DAMPEN POPULAR HOPES FOR A LOOSENING OF CONTROLS IN GDR SOCIETY AFTER HELSINKI BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR DISCIPLINE AND MILITARY PREPAREDNESS. THE CAMPAIGN COULD ALSO FORESHADOW A LARGER ROLE FOR THE NVA WITHIN THE GDR. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS DESIGNED TO MEET SPECIFIC GDR DOMESTIC CONCERNs RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND CONTROL. COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN05385
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760085-0451
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603116/baaaertp.tel
Line Count: 353
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S ARMY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GC, GE, UR, NATIONAL PEOPLES ARMY, NVA, (HONECKER, ERICH), (HOFFMAN, HEINZ)
To: STATE INFO BELGRADE
BONN
BUCHAREST
BUDAPEST
LONDON
AMEMBSSY MOSCOW

PARIS
PRAGUE
SOFIA
WARSAW
USBERLIN UNN
NATO

Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006